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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 OMB-01 /089 W
----------171759Z 117621 /44
R 171445Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0081
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAESSALAAM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
RUEH R/AMEMBASSY MAPUTO 0393
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1354

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, SF, WA, US, UN, BC
SUBJECT: BRIEFING OF GOB OFFICIALS ON NAMIBIAN TALKS

REF: CAPE TOWN 969

1. ON JUNE 17 UK HICOM TURNER, FRG CHARGE' REGENHARDT AND EMBASSY CHARGE' BRIEFED ACTING PRESIDENT NWAKO (ACTING MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS), INFORMATION MINISTER KWELAGOBE AND EXTAFF UNDER SECRETARY MOGAMI ON SECOND ROUND OF NAMIBIAN TALKS. ALTHOUGH BOTH PRESIDENT KHAMA AND EXTAFFMIN MOGWE BRIEFED IN LONDON AND AT USUN, THEY WILL NOT RETURN TO BOTSWANA FOR SOME TIME. THEREFORE, CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS THOUGHT IT USEFUL TO
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BRING RANKING GOB OFFICIALS HERE UP TO DATE ON NAMIBIAN TALKS.

2. BRIEFING AND SUBSEQUENT ANSWERS SUPPLIED CHIEFLY BY UK HICOM TURNER. ACTING PRESIDENT NWAKO EXPRESSED KEEN INTEREST IN BRIEFING AND ASKED FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:
Q: HOW CAN THE CONTACT GROUP NEGOTIATE WITH A REGIME

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WHICH OCCUPIES NAMIBIA ILLEGALLY? DOES THE CONTACT GROUP RUN RISK OF CENSURE FROM THE UN?

A: CONTACT GROUP HAS KEPT BOTH SECRETARY GENERAL AND THE APPROPRIATE AFRICAN UN MEMBER GOVERNMENTS UP TO DATE ON TALKS. GENERAL REACTION HAS BEEN ENCOURAGING AND EVEN THOSE SKEPTICAL OF OUTCOME WISH THE CONTACT GROUP WELL.

Q: ONCE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL IS APPOINTED WOULD NAMIBIA CONTINUE TO BE REPRESENTED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT?

A: THE FACT THAT THE ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL WOULD TAKE ON EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE FUNCTIONS COULD POSSIBLY PRECLUDE FURTHER REPRESENTATION OF NAMIBIA IN SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT.

Q: WOULD SWAPO LIBERATION FORCES CONTINUE ARMED STRUGGLE UP UNTIL TIME OF INDEPENDENCE OR DOES THE CONTACT GROUP ENVISAGE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR A CEASEFIRE?

A: QUESTION OF CEASEFIRE LARGELY DEPENDS ON THE DECISION OF SWAPO.

Q: DO THE FIVE POWERS SUPPORT OR OPPOSE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY? WOULD THEY LIKE TO HAVE A UN FORCE ENTER NAMIBIA TO BOLSTER A POST-LIBERATION, POSSIBLY A SWAPO, ADMINISTRATION?

A: THE SUBJECT HAS NOT YET BEEN ADDRESSED IN THE TALKS.

3. CONCERNING THE RELEASE OF DETAINEES AND POLITICAL PRISONERS, NWAKO SAID HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THOSE HELD IN OTHER COUNTRIES; FOR EXAMPLE, TANZANIA AND ZAMBIA. IT WOULD NOT BE FAIR WERE THE SWAPO ADHERENTS RELEASED WHILE CONFIDENTIAL

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OTHER NAMIBIANS WERE LEFT TO LANGUISH IN PRISON. ON THIS POINT KWLEAGOBE NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE IN THE INTERESTS OF SOUTH AFRICA TO SEE THE RETURN OF AS MANY NON-SWAPO NAMIBIANS AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO OFF-SET SWAPO STRENGTH AT THE ELECTION POLLS.

4. NWAKO CONCLUDED THAT THE SKEPTICISM ONE HELD AGAINST THE SOUTH AFRICANS MUST BE BALANCED BY OPTIMISM. AFTER ALL, WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE RSA WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED THE PRESENCE OF AN ADMINISTRATOR-GENERAL AND A UN SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE. BECAUSE THE SOUTH AFRICAN ARMY WAS VERY STRONG, SWAPO COULD NOT DO THE JOB IN THE FIELD AND, SIMILARLY, THE UN COUNCIL OF NAMIBIA HAD BEEN INEFFECTUAL TO DATE. NOW WITH THE WORK OF THE CONTACT GROUP, SOUTH AFRICA WAS MOVING IN A DIRECTION CONSISTANT WITH THE WISHES OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY. HE SAID HE WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE FACT THAT UNIVERSAL SUFFERAGE WAS ACCEPTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS.

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5. NWAKO CONSIDERED THAT THE MAIN TASK BEFORE ALL THE PARTIES WAS TO MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR SWAPO TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE ANTICIPATED NAMIBIAN ELECTIONS. THEREFORE, WERE THEY TO LOSE THEY WOULD DO SO FAIRLY AND WOULD HAVE NO BASIS FOR COMPLAINT. AT THIS POINT KWELAGOBE DREW A PARALLEL BETWEEN SWAPO AND THE MEMBERS OF THE RHODESIAN PATROIOTIC FRONT, INASMUCH AS THEY BOTH FEARED THAT THEIR OPPONENTS (I.E., TURHALLE AND MUZOREWA) WOULD COMMAND A VICTORY WERE ELECTIONS TO TAKE PLACE. THEREFORE0 BOTH OF THE MOVEMENTS WERE PROBABLY STALLING IN THEIR EFFORTS TO FIND A GENERAL SOLUTION.

6. COMMENT: CONTACT GROUP MEMBERS WERE IMPRESSED WITH THE INTEREST, UNDERSTANDING AND OPTIMISM SHOWN BY THESE GOB REPRESENTATIVES.
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Message Attributes

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